

ANCIENT EGYPT.

Much History Gathered from a Single Site, Abydos.

The continuation of the work of the Egypt exploration fund at Abydos this year has given a wider view of the early civilization, of which the general lines had been fixed by the previous work on the royal tombs of the town, writes Prof. Flinders Petrie, to the London Times. The clearance of the old temple site over several acres has brought to light, in a depth of about 20 feet, no less than ten successive temples ranging in age from 5000 to 500 B. C. For the first time we can see on one spot the changes from age to age through the whole of Egyptian history. To separate these buildings was an affair of anatomy rather than spade work. The walls of mud brick were so commingled with the soil that incessant section cutting with a sharp knife was the only way to discriminate the brick work. Often only a single course of bricks or a thin bed of foundation sand was all that told of the great buildings which and existed there for centuries. Over 5,000 measurements were taken for the plans and levels.

The main result as regards the religion is that Osiris was not the original god of Abydos; the jackal god, Upuaut, and then the god of the west, Khentamenti, were honored here down to the twelfth dynasty. The most striking chance is seen about the fourth dynasty, when the temple was abolished, and only a great hearth of burned offerings is found, full of votive clay substitutes for sacrifices. This exactly agrees with the account of Herodotus that Cheops had closed the temples and forbidden sacrifices. This materializing of history is made the more real by finding an ivory statuette of Cheops of the finest work, which shows for the first time the face and character of the great builder and organizer who made the Egyptian government and civilization what it was for thousands of years after. This carving is now in the Cairo museum.

The discoveries of the civilization of the first dynasty, the beginning of the kingdom, expand what we already had from my work in the royal tombs. Of Menes, the founder, we have part of a large globular vase of green glaze with his name inlaid in purple; thus polychrome glazing is taken back thousands of years before it was previously known to exist. The free use of great tiles of glaze for wall coverings shows how usual the art was then. In the highest art of delicate ivory carving there are several pieces of this age; especially the figure of an aged king, for its subtlety and character stands in the front rank of such work, comparable to the finest carvings of Greece or Italy. We must now reckon the earliest monarchy as the equal of any later age in such technical and

fine art.

Pottery of forms and material quite unknown in Egypt also belong to this remote age; and it proves to be identical with that in Crete of the late neolithic age. This fresh connection illustrates the trade and the chronology of that period. A head of a camel modeled in pottery takes back its relation to Egypt some 4,000 years; hitherto no trace of it had appeared before Greek times. An ivory carving of a bear extends also the fauna of early Egypt.

The great fort long known as the Shunet el Zehib is now connected with the remains of another fort, which was discovered between that and the Coptic Deir, which is in a third fort. These buildings prove now to have been the fortified residences of the kings of the second dynasty, whose sealings we have found in dwelling rooms.

Of a later age may be noted some large decrees of the fifth and sixth dynasties, the oldest example of iron yet known, which is of the sixth dynasty, and in the eighteenth dynasty, a great memorial tablet of the grandmother of that line, and the remains of a cliff temple of the type of Deir el Bahri. These are but the salient points of a winter's work of much historical interest. The collection will be exhibited as usual at University college, Gower street, from July 1 to 25.

FATE OF FAMOUS SHIPS.

Some Wornout Vessels Used as Warehouses on African Coast.

If you were to visit some of the ports on the coast of West Africa which are not yet provided with docks and other facilities for shipping, you would see the hulks of many steamers, some of them formerly well known in New York harbor, that in the day of their decline are playing a very humble role.

Worn out and dilapidated, says the New York Sun, they are moored near the mouths of rivers, inside the bar, and take the place of warehouses. The palm oil, palm kernels, ground nuts, rubber, ivory and other commodities which those regions have to sell, are stored on board these old vessels.

In the deckhouses are the quarters of the agents of European trading companies which barter goods with the natives for these articles. When steamers come into the ports they tie up to the hulks and load with the accumulated freight.

One of the most important of these ports is Bonny, on a branch of the Niger delta. It has long been devoted to legitimate trade, but it was once the most frequented station of the slavers. As many as 320,000 captives were sold in the market of Bonny in the first 20 years of the 19th century.

Bonny is to-day one of the greatest markets for palm oil, and 20,000 tons are sometimes shipped to Europe in a year.

Until quite recently one of the

smallest and most useful of the hulks at Bonny was all that was left of a vessel which in her prime was one of the most popular ships sailing from New York in the Transatlantic trade. She was the old Adriatic of the Collins line.

The Adriatic was for years very popular with passengers as one of the best and most comfortable boats of the line, and many a traveler would book for no other vessel, preferring to wait till the sailing day of the Adriatic came around.

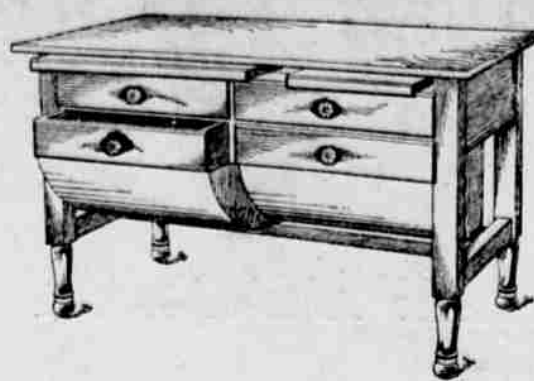
After the service was withdrawn the Adriatic became one of a new line of vessels, with Galway, Ireland, as the home port.

This venture was not successful, and after the Adriatic had been laid up at Birkenhead for a number of years, and was about to be knocked to pieces for old iron, she was finally bought for a song and taken to Bonny as one of the storage hulks.

The day came at last when the old vessel was worthless, even for storage purposes. She would scarcely hang together, and the work of pumping her out had become too arduous, so she was towed up the river a little way, her nose was poked into a swamp, and there she was left to fall to pieces at her leisure.

SIR OLIVER LODGE.

Sir Oliver Lodge is a man talked about in London. He has conceived a device for fighting fog by electricity, the current to be shot from tall masts.



To Make Room For Spring Purchases

We offer the following for the next two weeks

Kitchen Cabinet like cut in size, but not constructed of cottonwood and gum
Full size 28 x 48 top, only - - - \$4.25

Solid Oak Bed Room Suit - - - \$16.00

CARPETS, all grades at REDUCED PRICES
BRUSSELS BY THE ROLL
We handle no samples

During February we will have a big Special Couch Sale. Watch for Window Display.

Reavis & Abbey

Pay a Visit to Portland, Ore., During Hard Winters.

A flock of evening grosbeaks usually visit this city during the winter, says the Portland Oregonian. They have been flitting about and feeding on the seeds of the locust trees, the pods of which still cling to the branches, and pecking at the stems from which the seeds of the maples have fallen, evidently finding something eatable there. These birds did not visit the city last winter, it was supposed on account of the season not being severe in the mountains and forests, where they have their haunts. There are several species of grosbeaks scattered over North America, from the far north away down into Mexico. They derive the name from the large stout bill which is characteristic of the whole family. The evening grosbeak is the only species seen here. Flocks of them are often seen in the pine woods on the Cascades and Blue mountains as late as May, being on their way from the south to their summer haunts in the far countries of the north. They are seen at different times in Wisconsin and as far east as the New England states. But they are supposed to visit this city when the snow gets unusually deep in the mountains, but their movements appear to be capricious. The blue, pine, and rose-breasted species of the grosbeak are of more showy plumage than the evening grosbeak, which is of modest colors, but still is a beautiful bird.